RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR APRIL 1947 C. R. JORDAN

Precipitation was above normal during April over most of the eastern half of the United States. There was also an area of above-normal precipitation covering eastern Washington and northern Idaho, and a narrow belt extending through central Nevada, northwestern Utah, and western Wyoming. The greatest departures from normal were in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, northern Illinois, and southern Michigan, where more than twice the usual amounts were recorded. It was drier than usual in most of Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, and in the western part of the country, except for the two areas previously mentioned. Less than half the normal amounts fell over a broad strip from southern Texas to southern California, and no precipitation occurred in southwestern Arizona and southeastern California.

Damaging floods occurred from northern Illinois to western New York and northern Pennsylvania as a result of heavy precipitation, augmented somewhat by melting snow. The greatest overflow since 1904 occurred in southern Michigan. Run-off was excessive over a broad strip of the Central Valley region from North Dakota and Minnesota to the central Gulf region, and considerable flooding occurred in many streams.

Drought conditions continued in the Far Southwest.

Hudson Bay drainage.—Considerable damage accompanied the annual break-up of the Red River of the North, below Fargo, N. Dak. The crest of the river at Grand Forks, N. Dak., exceeded that of the 1943 flood but was considerably below the record stage of 1897.

Great Lakes drainage.—Record floods in Michigan occurred as a result of heavy rains on above-normal snow cover. The heavy rains fell in two distinct storm periods,

April 1-2 and April 4-6.

Moderate rain over southern Michigan on April 1 and 2, raised river levels to near-flood stage, and in a few streams, including the Red Cedar River, to slightly above flood stage. The streams were still high and just beginning to recede when general rains began again on the 4th and continued through the 5th and 6th. These rains reached heavy proportions, generally ranging from 2 to 3 inches over southern Michigan and reaching as much as 4 inches in some areas. In consequence, all streams over the affected region rose steadily, culminating in the greatest overflow in southern Michigan since the great flood of 1904. The floods rank among the worst of record in the Mount Clemens, Flint, Williamston, East Lansing, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, and Kalamazoo areas, and doubtless in many other localities. Devastation was widespread and estimated damage reached into millions of dollars. A tabulation of crest stages at numerous stations as compared with the previous highest stages of record follows:

Table 1 .- Crests of 1947 floods as compared with previous highest stages of record

Diseased station	Flood	April 1947		Prior to 1947		
River and station	stage	Stage 1	Date	Stage	Date	
Red Cedar: Williamston, Mich East Lansing, Mich	7 8	12.0 12.3	6 7	9.3 12.0	Feb. 14, 1938. Mar. 15, 1918.	
Grand: Eston Rapids, Mich Diamondsle, Mich Lansing, Mich Grand Ledge, Mich Grand Rapids, Mich	6 7 11 11 15	9. 1 8. 0 16. 9 12. 0 17. 6	6 7 7 9	8.8 6.9 16.7 11.9 18.5	Mar. 14, 1918. June 3, 1943. Mar. 15, 1918. Feb. 16, 1918. Jan. 24, 1907.	
Shiawassee: Owosso, Mich	7 11 14 19	10. 3 16. 3 17. 8 20. 0	6 6 8	9.0 11.2 19.0 24.3	Mar. 17, 1942. Feb. 13-14, 1938. Mar. 18, 1942. Mar. 31, 1916.	

¹ Preliminary.

The St. Marys River at Decatur, Ind., and the St. Joseph River at Montpelier, Ohio, exceeded flood stage during the month.

Atlantic Slope drainage.—Flood stages were reached on many streams from Maine to Georgia but in general there was no severe or extensive overflow. The Northeast was fortunate again this year in having a heavy snow cover melt gradually and move downstream without damaging stages or severe ice trouble.

Local floods in the upper Susquehanna River Basin on April 5 caused considerable damage in some areas. Flooding occurred in the lower portions of Wellsboro, Pa., and cities and towns in the Lackawanna River Valley. In the period April 1-5, 2 inches of rain fell in the Susquehanna drainage above Towanda, Pa., and 2.7 inches from Towanda to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The Susquehanna and most of its tributaries at and above Wilkes-Barre exceeded flood stage but caused little or no damage in the main rivers.

East Gulf of Mexico drainage.—The Choctawhatchee River exceeded flood stage slightly on two occasions during the month.

Two periods of flood stages were also experienced on the Lower Tombigbee River and one period on the Upper Tombigbee River. Substantial rises were recorded on the Warrior River, but no flood stages were reached. The Alabama River was above flood stage at Millers Ferry, Ala., from the 18th to the 22d.

Locally, heavy rains fell over the Pearl River Basin on several occasions during the first halt of April. Flood stages were reached in the upper portions of the stream near the middle of the month, and from Jackson, Miss., to Pearl River, La., the river was above flood stage most of the month. It remained above flood stage at the beginning of May. Damage was not great, and losses were limited mostly to lumbering operations in the river swamps and to loss of wages in those areas. Some damage to roads and bridges resulted from the flood waters.

Mississippi Basin.—Light overflow occurred at many points throughout the Mississippi Valley. Record-breaking floods occurred on April 5-7, in the head waters of the Alleghenv River in Pennsylvania and New York.

Moderate flood stages were reached on the Mississippi River from Muscatine, Iowa, to below the mouth of the Ohio River. Flood stages were also exceeded in the lower portions of the Missouri, Arkansas, and Ohio Rivers as well as in many smaller tributaries. Overflow was generally not severe.

Severe local flooding occurred in the headwaters of the Allegheny River in northwestern Pennsylvania and western New York. The flooding resulted from 2 to 5 inches of rain accompanied by melting snow. The Allegheny River at Warren, Pa., exceeded the previous maximum stage of record that occurred in 1913 by almost 2 feet. The main street of Bradford, Pa., was covered by 6 feet or more of water, and much of the city of Meadville, Pa., was also flooded. Damage was estimated at more than a million dollars.

Local flooding did considerable damage in Carroll and Holmes Counties, Miss., as a result of heavy showers, averaging between 6 and 7 inches, which fell over most of Carroll and Holmes counties between 1 and 4 a. m., on the 11th. Many bridges were destroyed and considerable damage was done to flood control works.

West Gulf of Mexico drainage.—Flood stages were exceeded slightly during the month at a few stations in eastern Texas.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR APRIL 1947 [All dates in April unless otherwise specified]

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR APRIL 1947—Continued

River and station	Flood			Crest 1		River and station	Flood	Above flood stages—dates		Crest 1	
	stage	From-	То—	Stage	Date		stage	From-	То	Stage	Date
HUDSON BAY DRAINAGE Red of North: Wahpeton, N. D. Moorhead, Minn. Grand Forks, N. D.	Feet 6 17 28	8 10 13	15 23 (1)	Feet 7.8 28.9 40.7	12 15 21	EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE—Con. Lock No. 1 Pascagoula: Merrill, Miss	Feet 31 22	{ 2 14 3 15	(*) 7 22	Feet 33. 2 37. 2 22. 7 23. 4	4 24 6 17
ST. LAWRENCE DEAINAGE Lake Michigan Red Cedar: Williamston, Mich East Lansing, Mich	7 8	3 3	9 10	12. 0 12. 3	6 6	Bogue Chitto: Franklinton, La. Pearl: Edinburg, Miss Goshen Springs, Miss Jackson, Miss Monticello, Miss	20 20 18 15	1 14 14 10 8 9	19 23 (3) 5 (4) 7	15. 2 21. 9 21. 5 29. 1 19. 0 20. 9 18. 9	16 18 21 4 16
Grand: Eaton Rapids, Mich Diamondale, Mich Lansing, Mich Grand Ledge, Mich Ionia, Mich Lowell, Mich Grand Rapids, Mich	6 7 11 11 21	5 5 4 6 6 6	12 8 10 8 10 12	9. 1 8. 0 16. 9 12. 0 23. 6 18. 5 17. 6	6 6 7 7 7 7-8 9	Columbia, Miss Pearl River, La MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM Upper Mississippi Basin Rock: Moline, Ill	17 12	(11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	(9) (7)	20. 3 16. 0	17 16 7-8
Lake Huron Shiawasse: Owosso, Mich	7 11 14 19	4 5 5 7	11 10 7 10	10.3 16.3 17.8 19.8	6 6 8	Iowa: Wapello, Iowa	10 35 7	19 19 6 5 11	28 23 6 6 14	10. 7 11. 0 36. 1 9. 8 17. 0 16. 6	23-24 23 6 5 6 12 21
Lake Erie St. Marys: Decatur, Ind St. Joseph: Montpelier, Ohio	13	26 30 3 3 20	26 (³) 13 26	13.3 13.0 13.7 14.2	26 30 7 21	Eddyville, IowaOttumwa, Iowa	15 9	20 5 11 20 5 11 20 20	21 7 15 22 7 15 22	16. 0 19. 4 18. 4 18. 5 12. 7 11. 4 11. 4	21 6 12 21 7 13 22
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE Merrimack: Franklin Junction, N. H. Bow, N. H. Connecticut: South Newbury, Vt.		13 14 13	13 14 15	14. 0 5. 5 24. 2	13 14 13	Morris, Ill	13 17 18 14 14 12	{ 6 6 21 8 7 7 7 86	8 13 25 16 (3) (3) 28	21. 2 22. 9 18. 0 20. 0 17. 9	6 6 22 10 11 14–16
South Newbury, Vt. White River Junction, Vt. Walpole, N. H. Montague City, Mass. Holyoke, Mass. Hartford, Conn. Lackawaxen: Hawley, Pa.	18 30 28 9 16	12 13 12 13 { 8 {13	14 13 14 14 10 18	19.0 30.9 31.3 9.3 16.3 20.3	12 13 13 13 9 14	Meramec: Sullivan, Mo Pacific, Mo Valley Park, Mo	11 11 14	26 25 22 25 25 25	27 22 29 30	18. 4 25. 5 13. 0 24. 0 28. 2	27 26 22 28 28 28
Lackawaxen: Hawley, Pa. Unadilla: Rockdale, N. Y. Tioughnioga: Whitney Point, N. Y. Chenango: Sherburne, N. Y. Greene, N. Y. Blinghampton, N. Y. Chemung:	11 12 8 8 16	7 5 6 6 5	7 11 9 8 6	10. 2 14. 0 9. 4 10. 5 18. 0	7 5 6 7 6	Gordons Ferry, Iowa. Muscatine, Iowa. Keithsburg, Ill. Louisiana, Mo.	13 15 12 12	12 20 15 1 14 19 22	27 25 26 7 15 19 22	13. 9 15. 6 13. 5 12. 2 12. 3 12. 0 12. 0	17 23 23 1 15 19 22 25-27
Chemung: Corning, N. Y. Elmira, N. Y. Chemung, N. Y. Susquehanna: Oneonta, N. Y. Unadilla, N. Y. Bainbridge, N. Y. Conklin, N. Y. Binphamton, N. Y. Vestal, N. Y. Towanda Pa	16 12 12 12 11 13	6 5 6 3 6	6 6 7 15 7 8	17. 0 16. 0 18. 0 16. 4 11. 1 15. 5	6 6 6 6	Grafton, Ill	18 30 27 32	25 8 12 25 10 11	(3) (19 (1) (1) (1) (2)	12. 1 24. 6 30. 8 34. 4 34. 7 38. 7	25-27 28 18 28 30 30
Wilkes-Barre, Pa	11 14 14 16 22 20 10	5 5 4 5 6 7	8 7 5 10 7 7	15. 0 14. 0 20. 8 19. 6 24. 8 20. 0 10. 3	6 5 6 7 7 3	Solomon: Beloit, Kans	18 15	{ 10 30 10 10	(1) 12 11 10	22. 4 21. 1 17. 4 9. 2	11 30 10
James: Columbia, Va. Roanoke: Williamston, N. C. Neuse: Goldsboro, N. C. Cape Fear: Lock No. 2, Elizabethtown, N. C. Pee Dee: Mars Bluff Bridge, S. C. Black: Kingstree, S. C. Edisto, Crangeburg, S. C.	10 14 20	21 18 16 17 18 13	25 20 19	10. 5 14. 4 23. 6 18. 2 12. 3	22 19 17 19 19	Hanover, Kans Big Blue: Barnston, Nebr Blue Rapids, Kans Randolph, Kans Kansas: Manhattan, Kans	14 18 20 22	10 10 10 11	12 11 12 12 12	16.3 22.2 23.4 22.6	12 11 12 12
Black: Kingstree, S. C. Edisto: Orangeburg, S. C. Savannah: Butler Creek, Ga. Ogeechee: Dover, Ga. Oconee: Milledgeville, Ga. Oconee: Milledgeville, Ga. Charlotte, Ga.	21 7 11 20	16 1 17 15	22 20 23 16 26 25 15	8. 2 21. 3 8. 6 12. 4 20. 0	18 16 17 18 15	Wamego, Kans. LeCompton, Kans. Grand: Gallatin, Mo. Chillicothe, Mo.	16 17 20 18	$ \begin{cases} 12 \\ 11 \end{cases} $ $ \begin{cases} 4 \\ 11 \\ 21 \end{cases} $	12 11 6 8 13 21 18	16. 4 17. 1 23. 1 30. 7 26. 4 22. 1	12 11 5 6 11 21
Piney Bluff, Ga EAST GULF OF MEXICO DEAINAGE Flint: Albany, Ga Apalachicola: Blountstown, Fla	. 20	16 18	(1) 26 26 17 1	21. 5	23-24 22 17	Brunswick, Mo	12 26 30	$\left\{\begin{array}{cc} 5\\21\\5\\5\\11\end{array}\right]$	24 5 6 11	20. 7 13. 8 28. 8 33. 8 33. 8	9 22 5 5
Apalachicola: Blountstown, Fla Choctawhatchee: Caryville, Fla Alabama: Millers Ferry, Ala Black Warrior: Lock No. 7, Eutaw, Ala Tombigbee: Aberdeen, Miss Columbus, Miss	15 12 40 35 34 29	1 5 16 18 14 13 15	(3) 7 21 22 19	20. 5 12. 2 13. 1 42. 2 39. 8	20 6 18 21 16-17	Ottawa, Kans. Oswatomie, Kans. LaCygne, Kans. Trading Post, Kans. Osceola, Mo.	24 28 25 24 22	$ \begin{cases} $	7 12 8	27. 6 27. 1 35. 8 33. 6 30. 0 27. 0 25. 4	6 12 6 13 7–8 8
Gainesville, Ala. Lock No. 4, Demopolis, Ala. Lock No. 3. Lock No. 2.	36 39 33	15 15 13 2 12 14	26 28 28 (7)	29. 4 43. 4 51. 5 87. 1 53. 3 54. 9	21-22 19 8 21 21	Warsaw, Mo	31 60	25 12 25 15 25 25	16 18 19 20 28 18 29 17 29	28. 0 82. 0 34. 4 60. 2 61. 8	27 14 27 16 27

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR APRIL 1947—Continued

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR ARRIL 1947-Continued

	1 I I						OK AKKIL 1947					
	Flood stage	Above flood stages—dates		Crest 1		River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages —dates		Crest 1		
		From—	То-	Stage	Date			From-	То	Stage	Date	
Missouri Basin—Continued Osage—Continued St. Thomas, Mo	1	{ 16 25 25	(*) 17 (28	Feet 23.0 29.8 23.4	16, 17 28 27	Arkansas Basin—Continued Ninnescah: Peck, Kans. Walnut: Winfield, Kans	Feet 17 23 18	{ 11 14 13 20	11 14 16 (2)	Feet 17. 4 18. 5 31. 0 20. 6	11 14 14	
Missouri: Mobridge, S. D	16 15 19 15	Mar. 30 1 5 4 10 26 12	Mar. 31 6 8 12 26 13	16, 5 20, 0 17, 2 16, 2 17, 0	Mar. 31 6 7 11 26	Deep Fork: Dewar, Okla Cimarron: Perkins, Okla Verdigris: Independence, Kans Coffeyville, Kans Claremore, Okla Cottonwood: Emporia, Kans	36 20 38 20	13 16 16 26 11	16 17 21 27 16	13. 5 41. 8 21. 0 44: 4 38. 3 24. 2	22 14 15 16 20 27 14	
Kansas City, Mo Lexington, Mo Waverly, Mo Boonville, Mo Jefferson City, Mo Hermann, Mo St. Charles, Mo	22 18 21 23 21	\begin{cases} 15 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 7 & 25 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 & 7 &	15 15 17 17 17 19 (2)	23. 3 23. 2 23. 9 21. 8 25. 5 25. 8 25. 7 26. 3 31. 8	12 6 13 13 11 11 12,13 26 27	Neosho: Neosho Rapids, Kans Burlington, Kans LeRoy, Kans Iola, Kans Chanute, Kans	22 27 23 15 20	$ \begin{cases} 12 \\ 13 \\ 5 \\ 11 \\ 13 \\ 5 \\ 11 \\ 5 \\ 11 \end{cases} $	15 17 5 11 17 6 18 7 20	23. 0 30. 4 24. 1 23. 2 25. 3 19. 0 19. 1 24. 5 25. 2	12 13 5 11 13 5 16 6 16	
Ohio Basin Allegheny: Ölean, N. Y	14 17 24 25 9	5 5 6 7 6	9 8 7 7 7 6	15.8 17.0 19.1 25.8 26.3 10.8	7 5 6 6 7 6	Parsons, Kans Oswego, Kans North Canadian: Yukon, Okla Poteau: Poteau, Okla Fouche La Faye: Perryville, Ark	24 17 11 21 20	14 8 12 26 12 29 11 13 28	20 9 21 26 16 29 14 23	25. 4 19. 1 21. 8 18. 5 13. 0 12. 4 27. 0 24. 4 25. 3	19 9 19–20 26 13 29 12 18 30	
Circleville, Ohio	15 25	22 22 27 17 18 20	22 24 28 21 19 22	14.2 18.3 15.6 27.4 33.7 34.6	22 22 28 19 18 20	Arkansas: Oxford, Kans	14 16 16 12 23	15 12 15 15 15 28	15 17 17 18 19	14. 3 20. 2 19. 4 15. 9 26. 4 24. 8	15 15 16 16 16	
West Fork: Anderson, Ind Elliston, Ind Edwardsport, Ind	10 18 12	26 12 26 6 21 26 27	26 14 (1) 19 22 (2) 28	10.7 20.0 21.6 18.0	26 13 28 13-14 22 30	Fort Smith, Ark	22 22	\begin{cases} 15 & 28 & 12 & 16 & 27 & 16 & 27 & 14 & 14 & 15 & 15 & 15 & 15 & 15 & 15	(1) 20 (2) 20 (3) (4)	22. 6 25. 4 25. 2 25. 4 24. 9 25. 8 22. 0	16 16 29 13 17 30 17 27 30 14 18	
East Fork: Seymour, Ind	16 16	{ 11 26 9	(3) 21	18.8 19.7 20.6	15-16 29 30	Dardanelle, Ark	22	17 29	(2) ²⁰	24. 0 22. 4		
Wabash, Ind Lafayette, Ind Covington, Ind	11	30 13 22 27 30 28 30 26 26 27 30	(3) 13 23 28 (2) 28	15.8 11.4 11.9 12.9 13.0 16.1	30 13 22 27 30 28	Hagansport, Tex	38 22	14 17	16 24	38. 4 24. 7	16 19	
Terre Haute, Ind	14 14 17 15	1	000	16. 7 15. 2 15. 7 19. 3 15. 0	27, 30 27, 30 30 30 30 30	Fisk, Mo	20 18 26 35	12 26 15 15 18	20 (3) (3) 23 24	22. 7 23. 1 19. 7 27. 8 35. 7	14-15 28-30 19-20 18 20	
Shawneetown, Ill. Lock No. 50, Fords Ferry, Ky. Dam No. 52, Brook, Jort, Ill. Dam No. 53, Mound City, Ill. Cairo, Ill.	33 34 37 42 40	14 13 15 12 10	17 22 22 (²) (²)	33. 7 35. 9 38. 5 46. 5 47. 1	15 15-16 19 18 20	New Madrid, Mo	34 32 25	13 14	99	37. 5 35. 8 26. 4	20-21 21-22 29-30	
White Basin Black: Poplar Bluff, Mo		13 27 11	13 28 18	16.3 18.8 15.8	13 27 12	WEST GULF OF MEXICO DEAINAGE Whiskey Chitto: Mittie, La Calcasieu: Kinder, La	15 16	12 13	14 17	18. 9 17. 8	12 14	
Black Rock, Ark	23 21 26	29 28 18 23 26	(2) 18 28 22 (2) (2) (2)	23. 0 21. 6 26. 4 25. 3	28 19–20 25–27 30	Sabine: Mineola, Tex. Gladewater, Tex. Neches: Evadale, Tex. East Fork: Rockwall (nr.), Tex. Trinity:	14 26 16 10 28	13 18 1 16	22 25 1 18	17. 3 31. 4 16. 0 11. 6	15 21 1 17	
Arkansas Basin Little Arkansas:		, ,,	11	10.9	11	Trintdad, Tex Long Lake, Tex Liberty, Tex Guadalupe: Victoria, Tex	40 24 21	20 26 16	22 28 16	40. 9 24. 4 21. 3	20 28 16	
Sedgwick, Kans			11 14 14	19. 3 23. 1 13. 3	11 43 14	Provisional. Continued at end of month.						